

RESOURCES

The Budget provides significant funding for programs that protect California's natural resources for current and future generations. These programs not only preserve and restore the state's pristine coastline, unique forests, and diverse fish and wildlife habitat, but also protect the public from wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters. The Budget includes funding for the following programs critical to maintaining and enhancing California's natural resources:

FLOOD PROTECTION

The Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E) authorizes \$4.1 billion in general obligation bonds for levee repair and other flood control system improvements. This proposition was part of a coordinated effort to address California's infrastructure needs, and it reflected a recognition that California's aging levees and other flood control infrastructure are in urgent need of repair and improvement. This recognition was strengthened by the devastation produced by failed levees in New Orleans during and after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Governor Schwarzenegger has made improving flood protection a high priority, as evidenced by his 2006 Emergency Proclamation that directed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to repair critical levee erosion sites in the Central Valley. In 2007, the Governor signed legislation that requires the development of a comprehensive Central Valley Flood Protection Plan by 2012.

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Proposition 1E provides the following amounts in total:

- \$3.0 billion for Central Valley flood control system repairs and improvements
- \$500 million for flood control subventions outside the Central Valley
- \$300 million for stormwater flood management outside the Central Valley
- \$290 million for flood protection corridors and bypasses and floodplain mapping

To address the state's urgent flood control needs, the Budget includes \$807.8 million from Proposition 1E and Proposition 84 bond funds and 52.1 new positions for the following activities:

- \$416.6 million and 16.1 positions for the Flood SAFE California Program. This program will provide subventions to help local governments protect their communities from flooding, enhance emergency preparedness and flood response, and provide grants to local governments for urgent repairs and improvements of levees in the Central Valley and the Delta.
- \$126.5 million and 31.3 positions for levee evaluations and the repair of critical levee erosion sites.
- \$264.7 million and 4.7 positions for ten flood control capital projects: Mid-Valley Area Levee Reconstruction, South Sacramento County Streams, West Sacramento Project, Merced County Streams, Sutter Bypass, Yuba River Basin, Marysville Ring, American River Common Elements, Natomas Project, Folsom Dam Modification Project, and for feasibility studies on additional projects.

The Budget also provides \$2.8 million (\$1.8 million General Fund and \$1 million Proposition 1E) and 16.1 new positions to establish the Central Valley Flood Protection Board within DWR, as required by Chapters 365 and 366, Statutes of 2007. The new board will assume the responsibilities of the former State Reclamation Board, approve a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan by July 1, 2012, and ensure that cities and counties consider flood risks when making land use and development decisions.

PROPOSITION 84

In recent years, California's voters have approved a series of bonds to protect and enhance the state's natural resources. Propositions 12, 13, 40, and 50 have made available a total of \$10.1 billion dollars that have been used by local governments and

state agencies for a wide variety of activities such as water conservation, acquisition of land to protect wildlife habitats, and restoration of damaged ecosystems.

Most recently, the voters approved Proposition 84, which authorizes an additional \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds for water, flood control, natural resources, park, and conservation projects. Excluding flood protection, the Budget provides \$394.8 million in Proposition 84 funds for natural resources programs in 2008-09, including:

- \$89.4 million for the State Coastal Conservancy to restore coastal wetlands and watersheds and promote public access to the coast.
- \$26.4 million for the Ocean Protection Council to develop marine protected areas and enhance habitat for marine species.
- \$26.3 million for the California Conservation Corps and local conservation corps for public safety and watershed restoration projects, as well as grants to local corps for acquisition and development facilities to support local corps programs.
- \$16.7 million for Parks for deferred maintenance, interpretive exhibits, and cultural and natural stewardship projects at state parks.
- \$10.8 million and 2.8 positions for Fish and Game for environmental and ecosystem restoration activities at the Salton Sea.

Proposition 84 provides \$1 billion for integrated regional water management and \$65 million for statewide planning activities to address California's future water supply needs. Maintaining an adequate and reliable water supply is essential for a strong and growing economy. The state must adapt and improve its water supply systems and infrastructure to address the significant challenges associated with population growth, environmental needs in the Delta, and the effects of climate change.

ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE FUEL AND VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The Budget includes \$75.9 million Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Fund and 5.7 positions for the California Energy Commission to prepare guidelines and provide grants, loans, and other appropriate measures to public agencies, public-private partnerships, and other entities to develop alternative fuels and related technologies, including electricity, ethanol, renewable diesel, natural gas, hydrogen, and biomethane, among others. The development of these fuels and technologies will help reduce California's dependence on petroleum-based fuels.

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